



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

December 28, 2005

The Honorable Patricia L. Birkholz, Chair
Senate Committee on
Natural Resources and
Environmental Affairs
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable David Palsrok, Chair
House Committee on
Natural Resources, Great Lakes,
Land Use, and the Environment
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

The Honorable Shirley Johnson, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable Scott Hummel, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Senators Birkholz and Johnson and Representatives Palsrok and Hummel:

Pursuant to Section 52506 of 1994 PA 451, attached is the Department of Natural Resources' report addressing forestry issues.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Schafer, Chief
Budget and Support Services
517-335-3276

Attachment

cc: Senate Committee on Natural Resources
and Environmental Affairs Members
House Committee on Natural Resources, Great Lakes, Land Use,
and the Environment Members
Senate Appropriations Committee Members
House Appropriations Committee Members
Ms. Jessica Runnels, Senate Fiscal Agency
Dr. Kirk Lindquist, House Fiscal Agency
Ms. Mary Lannoye, State Budget Director, Department of
Management and Budget (DMB)

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters Chair Mary Brown Darnell Earley Bob Garner Gerald Hall John Madigan Frank Wheatlake

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Copies also sent to:

Mr. Jacques McNeely, DMB
Ms. Jennifer Harrison, DMB
Natural Resources Commission
Director Rebecca Humphries, DNR
Mr. Dennis Fox, Chief of Staff, DNR
Mr. Dennis Fedewa, Chief Deputy, DNR
Ms. Armina Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR
Mr. Rodney Stokes, Legislative Liaison, DNR
Ms. Lynne Boyd, DNR
Dr. William Moritz, DNR
Ms. Jane Schultz, DNR

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Public Act 451 of 1994, Section 52506 Report**

The Department of Natural Resources (Department) is required to provide a report to the Natural Resources Commission and the legislature that details the following:

(a) The number of harvestable acres in the state forest as determined by the certification program under section 52506.

Forest Certification systems do not determine the number of harvestable acres. Systems evaluate whether harvesting is being conducted in accordance with sustainable forestry principles that consider a broad range of environmental, social and economic criteria.

(b) The number of acres of the state forest that were harvested and the number of cords of wood that were harvested from the state forest.

There were 50,774 acres of state forest harvested in Fiscal Year 2004-2005 yielding an estimated volume of 732,112 cords.

(c) The number of acres of state-owned lands owned or controlled by the department other than state forestlands that were harvested and the number of cords of wood that were harvested from those lands.

There were 740 acres of state owned lands owned or controlled by the Department other than state forestlands that were harvested yielding an estimated volume of 21,057 cords.

(d) Efforts by the department to promote recreational opportunities in the state forest.

Publicity for the state forest campground program is provided via Department publications and website. The Michigan Recreation and Camping Guide, which features state parks and state forest campgrounds, was updated and 350,000 copies were reprinted last winter, of which 116,600 are left.

In addition, the Department printed 100,000 ORV and 100,000 Snowmobile brochures to provide information to users.

(e) Information on the public's utilization of the recreational opportunities offered by the state forest.

The Department's website had 18,300,000 hits in 2005. Of these 2,645,460 used the campground search engine.

There were 45,661 camp registrations for state forest campsites in 2005, in which 147,245 campers were registered. This equates to a total of 329,118 camper days (number of campers times the number of camp days stayed at a campsite) for the year.

There were 252,176 Snowmobile Trail Permits sold during the season (9/1/2004 through 5/31/2005) and 185,745 ORV Licenses sold in license year 2004.

(f) Efforts by the department to promote wildlife habitat in the state forest.

In 2005, Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) was completed. The goal of the WAP is to provide a common strategic framework that will enable Michigan's conservation partners to jointly implement a long-term holistic approach for the conservation of all wildlife species. The WAP includes species of greatest conservation need, as well as common species and provides direction and actions for long-term management and protection.

State forestlands are integral to the development and maintenance of wildlife habitat. WAP is being used by land managers to more fully assess future desired conditions and incorporate activities that support diverse habitat in statewide, regional, and operational planning.

Wildlife and Fisheries Division managers and biologists are actively involved with forest certification efforts, eco-regional planning and Operations Inventory/Compartment Review to cooperatively manage state forests for multiple objectives and benefits, including wildlife habitat.

There are also a variety of wildlife research and monitoring projects that provide scientific information for managers. Projects include red-shouldered hawk monitoring and common nighthawk surveys, as well as surveys for deer, bear, moose and other species.

(g) The status of the plan and whether the Department recommends any changes in the plan.

The Department has established a statewide planning team to prepare a "2006 State Forest Management Plan". Staff are currently drafting the plan.

(h) Status of certification efforts required in section 52505 and, beginning in 2006, a definitive statement of whether the Department is maintaining certification of the entire state forest.

Forest certification audits of the State Forest System were conducted in 2005 under the auspices of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative[®] (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The SFI awarded certification in December 2005. The FSC is expected to award certification in late December 2005.

(i) A description of any activities that have been undertaken on forest pilot project areas described in section 52511.

Forest pilot project areas will be established in 2006.